

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ EGY: GNANDERSON

APPROVED BY: NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065859

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TRIPOLI TUNIS TEL AVIV ALGIERS  
FROM PARIS 06 APR 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 9784

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, EG, LY

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR LIBYA- EGYPT UNION

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. PROSPECTS FOR MERGER OF EGYPT AND LIBYA SEEM  
INCREASINGLY REMOTE FROM PERSEPCTIVE OF QUAI D' ORSAY.  
ACCORDING TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS  
DE WARREN, GOF HAS CONCLUDED THAT WHAT WAS ONCE ONLY WORKING  
HYPOTHESIS , I. E. IMPROBABILITY OF MERGER ON SCHEDULE IN  
SEPTEMBER 1973, HAS BECOME VIRTUAL CERTAINTY.

2. DE WARREN CITED RECENT TRIPOLI VISIT OF SADAT AS  
MOST RECENT EVIDENCE OF COOLING OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
TWO COUNTRIES. VISIT, HE SAID, HAD BEEN CUT SHORT AND  
SADAT AND QADHAFI SEEMED PREOCCUPIED AND ILL AT EASE  
AT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES. IN ADDITION FRENCH BELIEVE  
QADHAFI WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED BY EGYPTAIN LACK OF RESPONSE  
AT SINAI AIR INCIDENT AND IS NOT HAPPY WITH SADAT' S RESHUFFLING  
OF CAIRO GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION TUNISIAN FONMIN SECRETARY  
GENERAL MESTIRI RECENTLY TOLD QUAI OFFICIALS THAT IN TUNSIAN-  
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LIBYAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS LIBYAN OFFICIALS, WHEN  
SPEAKING PRIVATELY AND PERSONALLY, HAD ALL EXPRESSED

MOST PROFOUND SCEPTICISM ABOUT MERGER PROSPECTS. THIS  
SCEPTICISM HAD IMPRESSED TUNISIANS AND ACCORDING TO DE WARREN,  
CONFIRMED GOF'S GROWING CONVICTION THAT LIBYAN- EGYPTAIN  
MERGER IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.  
IRWIN UQUOTE ROGERS

CONFI REVISED.

INDIAN ARMY TO REMAIN IN LARGENUMBERS IN SIKKIM. SIKKIM NOT  
RPT NOT TO FOLLOW BHUTAN LEAD TOWARD UN MEMBERSHIP. SPILLOVER  
ON NEPALI- DOMINATED DARJEELING DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL MAY TAKE  
ON ANTI- TIBETAN ( BHUTIA) OVERTONES, BUT PROBLEM SHOULD BE  
MANAGEABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. LATES ( APRIL 10) PRESS REPORTS HERE NOTE THAT GOI HAS APPOINTED  
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, B. S. DAS, AS NEW CHIEF  
ADMISTRATOR OF SIKKIM ( WE ASSUME THIS IS POSITION OF SIDLON/  
DEWAN WHICH PART OF INDO- SIKKIM TREATY BUT WHICH HAS BEEN VACANT  
FOR SOME MONTHS AND WHICH CHOGYAL HAD HOPED ELIMINATE). FURTHER,  
KAZI LENDHUP HAS ANNOUNCED " SUSPENSION" OF AGITATION AND ASKED  
HIS SUPOORTERS FULLY COOPERATE WITH GOI.  
3. ALL LOCAL ABOSERVERS AGREE THAT GOI HAVING NEW TAKEN OVER CIVIL  
ADMINISTRATION OF SIKKIM WILL BE INVOLVED FOR SOME TIME IN TICKLISH  
PROBLEM OF SORTING OUT RIVAL LOCAL CLAIMS WHILE KEEPING IN MIND IS  
IMPORTANT SECURITY CONCERNS IN AREA. IT FACES DLIEMMA IN IRONIC  
FACT THAT CHASTENED CHOGYAL WILL BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH THAN  
AGRESSIVE NEPALI YOUTH WHO FORM BULK OF SIKKIM ASTRYA CONGRESS  
( OF KAZI LENDHUP) AND OF JANATA CONGRESS/ STATE CONGRESS ( OF  
K. C. PRADHAN) WHOSE JOINT ACTION COUNCIL HAS CAUSED  
COLLAPSE OF FEUDAL ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IN STATE. LIBERALIZATION  
OF POLITICAL SYSTE., IN DEFERENCE TO MILITANT DEMANDSWHICH CRYSTALLIZED

LAST WEEK, MAY SOON PRODUCE SITUATION IN SIKKIM WHICH LESS EASILY  
CONTROLLED BY GOI.

4. DARJEELING FACTOR: A. ETHNIC TENSIONS: WE UNDERSTAND FROM  
GAJENDRA GURUNG, GOWB DEPUTY MINISTER AND ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF  
NEPALI- DOMINATED DARJEELING DISTRICT IN WEST BENGAL CABINE, THAT  
IMMEDIATE GOWB CONCERN WAS FOR WELFARE OF TIBETAN ( BHUTIA)  
MINORITY IN DARJEELING AS REPORTS OF CHOGYAL'S ARMING OF BHUTIA  
REFUGEE GROUPS IN ORDER TO ATTACH NEPALIS BEGAN TO APPEAR IN  
INDIAN PRESS. ONE HARUM- SCARUM STORY OF CROWN PRINCE TENZING  
GOING ON ANTI- NEPALI SHOOTING SPREE IN GANGTOK BAZAR  
RESULTED IN LARGE- SCALE YOUTH CONGRESS DEMONSTRATIONS IN LAKIMONG,  
DARJEELING AND KURSEONG TOWNS. THIS ' COMMUNAL' DANGER SEEMS TO  
HAVE PASSED, ALTHOUGH TIBETANS, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF  
THEIR FINANCIAL SUCCESS IN PAST TEN YEARS IN CONTRAST TO GENERALLY  
POOR NEPALIS, ARE UNPOPULAR AND STILL POTENTIAL TARGETS. APRIL  
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DESPATCHED TO NEW DELHI TO GIVE GOWB ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON

DARJEELING TO GOI.

B. MERGER OPTIONS: ALTHOUGH TALK ABOUNDS, ALL SEEM TO DISCOUNT TALK OF MERGER OF SIKKIM AND DARJEELING DISTRICT IN AUTONOMOUS UNIT. EVEN LESS LIKELY IS OCCASIONALLY MENTIONED MERGER WITH NEPAL. THIS OPTION HAS NO IMPORTANT SUPPORTERS ON EITHER SIDE OF BORDER. NEPALIS OF SIKKIM WANT TO RUN THAT STATE' S GOVERNMENT-- NOT FIND THEMSELVES SUBMERGED AS MINORITY IN NEW LARGER POLITICAL UNIT.

5. YOUNG TURKS: LARGE QUESTION MARKS OF FUTURE ARE VIEWS/ GOALS OF YOUTHFUL LEADERSHIP OF NEPALI- BASED PARTIES. KAZI LENDHUP' S ADOPTED SON, NAR BAHADUR KATHIAWAD IS CHAIRMAN, SIKKIM YOUTH CONGRESS. ABOUT 26, KATHIAWAD IS THRID YEAR STUDENT IN KALIMPONG COLLEGE AND DESPITE HIS RELATIONSHIP TO KAZI, IS CONSIDERED EXTREMELY AMBITIOUS AND, LIKE MOST OF THE YOUTH INVOLVED, COMMITTED TO NEPALI ADMINISTRATION OF SIKKIM( I. E., WITHOUTH CHOGYAL AND, IF NECESSARY WE UNDERSTAND, WITHOUT KAZI). SECOND IMPORTANT YOUNG LEADER IS 29- YEAR OLD K. C. PARADHAN, LEADER OF ANATA CONGRESS/ STATE CONGRESS, WHOSE ARREST BY CHOGYAL PRECIPITATED RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS. THESE POLITICOES HAVE GROWN UP IN ATMOSPHERE WHICH VIEWED GOI ( IN FORM INDIAN ARMY) AS MAIN PROP OF FEUDAL CHOGYAL ( THIS DESPITE FACT CHOGYAL HIMSELF USUALLY CRITICAL,

OFTEN SHARPLY SO, OF INDIAN ROLE IN SIKKIM). THUS THEIR COMMITMENT TO

EXPECTED COMPROMISE ( SEE SUMMARY) PROBABLY SHORT- TERM.

6. THREE WOMEN: ROLE OF THREE WOMEN IN IMBROGLIO OF INTEREST. FIRSTLY, GYALMO OF SIKKIM, FORMER HOPE COOKE, SEEN BY SOME SUSPICIOUS INDIANS AS WASHINGTON' S WOMAN IN GANGTOK. SECONDLY, AUSTIRAN- BORN WIFE ( KAZINI) OF KAZI LENDHUP REPUTED TO BE BOTH POWER AND BRAINS BEHIND MILD- MANNERED FEUDAL, ARISTOCRATIC HUSBAND. FINALLY, ACCORDING GURUNG, CALCUTTA- BASED DESCENDANT OF LAST LEPCHA CHEIFTAIN OF SIKKIM, RUTH CARTER, REPORTEDLY STAKING HER CLAIM TO " THRONE." SHE CLAIMING CHOGYAL AND HIS TIBETAN FAMILY DEFINITELY NOUVEAU. SHE HAS BEEN WORKING IN PAST WITH KAZINI.

7. SUNANDA DATTA- RAY, ASSISTANT EDITOR, STATESMAN TELLS US THAT HE TALKED WITH BYALMO SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 8, THAT SHE OF COURSE CONFIDENTIAL

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UPSET BY TURN OF EVENTS, BUT NOT RPT NOT IN PHYSICAL DANGER. HE LEAVING FOR BANGTOK APRIL 10, HAS PROMISED TO CALL US ON RETURN AND WILL HAVE AT THAT POINT PALACE VIEW OF WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE.

8. COMMENT: PERHAPS WORTH REITERATING THAT WE THUS FAR HAVE ONLY GOI VERSION OF EVENTS OF PAST WEEK IN SIKKIM, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT GOI AT FIRST NOT AVERSE TO NEPALI DEMONSTRATIONS/ PRESSURE ON CHOGYAL, BUT BECAME WORRIED AS THINGS RAPIDLY GOT

OUT OF HAND. GOI NOW IN TRICKY SITUATION FROM WHICH IT WILL BE  
DIFFICULT EMERGE WITH ITS DEMOCRATIC IMAGE AND SECURITY INTERESTS  
INTACT.  
GORDON

CONFIDENTIAL

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